

JPRS-UMA-85-013

14 February 1985

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

ARMY POLITICAL DIRECTORATE DISCUSSES PARTY WORK

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Nov 84 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Unflagging Attention to the Reports and Elections in the Primary Party Organizations"]

[Text] The Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy has reviewed the question of the work done by the political bodies in the area of directing the reports and elections in the primary party organizations. The results of the discussion were summed up by the First Deputy Chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, Adm A. Sorokin.

The reports and elections in the party organizations demonstrate the unity and close solidarity of the Army and Navy communists with the CPSU Central Committee and their unanimous approval of the activities of the Central Committee Politburo to carry out a Leninist course in domestic and foreign policy and to increase the defense capability of our socialist motherland under the conditions of the exacerbated military-political situation in the world caused by the aggressive forces of imperialism.

In a majority of the party organizations, the meetings are held on a high organizational and political level, in a business-like situation and in full conformity with the CPSU By-Laws. They have also been favorably influenced by the decisions of the February, April and October (1984) Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, by the ideas given in the speeches of Comrade K. U. Chernenko as well as by the nationwide preparations which have developed for the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War and for the 27th Party Congress.

At the center of attention of the report-election meetings are the questions of party work in the area of carrying out the tasks of increasing vigilance, combat readiness, the combat preparedness of the units and ships, standing alert duty, as well as the adopted socialist obligations. The communists, as a rule, have self-critically analyzed the results achieved in the last training year and are making specific proposals to further improve the activities of the party organizations.

At the same time, in the course of the discussion at the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy it was pointed out that at several party

meetings they had not succeeded in avoiding excessive organization. In some places they analyze not the style, forms and methods of party influence on all aspects of troop life and its effectiveness but rather there is a discussion of the general results of military and political training. The meetings do not sufficiently profoundly analyze the experience of party work acquired since the 26th CPSU Congress, and they do not always provide a principled assessment of the personal contribution of the communists to increasing combat readiness or the carrying out of socialist obligations by the troop collectives.

Instances of poor-quality training exercises, their failure, weaknesses and simplification in training are not everywhere judged sharply, and proper demands are not placed on those communists who are guilty of this and who have poor results in personal skills and the training of subordinates. For example, at certain meetings in the party organizations of the Belorussian Military District and the Moscow Air Defense District, the measures of the party organizations to increase the effectiveness of the training-indoctrinational process and to ensure the vanguard role of the CPSU members and candidate members were reviewed without proper thoroughness and self-criticalness. At a number of meetings, a proper evaluation was not given to the situation where the level of combat training and military skill among the personnel declined and where communists were satisfied with mediocre results in combat training.

As the results of the last training year show, what was achieved in the combat development of the personnel depends directly upon the effectiveness of the ideological and mass political work by the party organizations. This is becoming evermore purposeful and effective. However, not all the meetings viewed the practice of organizing this from the standpoint of the high demands of the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, in close relation to life and to the specific tasks of training and indoctrinating the personnel. At times, there was not a thorough analysis of how the party organization was carrying out the role of the center for daily ideological-indoctrination activities or how actively each communist participated in this. This work was not examined closely everywhere from the viewpoint of the unity of word and deed or the activeness of the CPSU members in the struggle against any manifestations of eye-wash, the abuse of official positions, embezzlement, drunkenness and other negative phenomena and in the struggle against bourgeois ideology and the intrigues of our class enemies. In this context the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy has emphasized the importance of a more apt positing in the report-election meetings of the the questions of strengthening party, state and military discipline, law and order, and increasing party demands on those who violate the standards of communist morality and the prescribed requirements.

Under the impact of the decisions of the 26th Party Congress and the subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee internal party life in the Army and Navy party organizations has become noticeably richer. But here, too, there are reserves for improvement. At the same time, at certain meetings this problem was not thoroughly examined and the fulfillment of the recommendations of the Sixth All-Army Conference of Primary Party Organization Secretaries on increasing the activeness, initiative and principledness in work was little analyzed. Not everywhere has there been an assessment of the state of leadership of the party committees over the party organizations of the battalions, companies and equal

subunits or the activities of the communists in the elective party bodies, in the people's control bodies and other social organizations. There must be a more profound analysis of the work done by the party organizations to carry out the demands of the CPSU Central Committee and the instructions of Comrade K. U. Chernenko on the questions of party leadership of the Komsomol.

As a whole, in positively assessing the activities of the political bodies in the area of directing the reports and elections, the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy at the same time drew attention to the fact that some of them do not fully utilize their influence on the quality of the meetings. In some places the system of political bodies endeavors to be involved in the largest possible number of meetings but is not always concerned that the representatives of the political bodies in fact provide help in their preparation and holding. There have been instances of an ineffective response to shortcomings in preparing for the meetings as well as slowness in carrying out proposals and critical comments from the communists. The political bodies must more fully consider both the positive experience as well as the shortcomings in leading the reports and meetings as well as the specific and particular features in the activities of each party organization. Here it is essential to see to it that each meeting profoundly analyzes the forms and methods of party work, its influence on carrying out the tasks of combat and political training and the ensuring of the vanguard role of the party members and candidate members in training, service and discipline. Particular attention must be paid to the party organizations of those subunits and units which showed poor results in the 1984 training year.

Considering that during the current year party conferences will not be held, fuller use must be made of the report-election meetings in the primary party organizations to inform the communists on the work of the party commissions under the political bodies and particularly on the questions of increasing demands on the calling of a party member and observance of the duties set out by the CPSU By-Laws.

It has been recommended that the political bodies carefully analyze the shortcomings and oversights in the leadership of the reports and elections, effectively generalize the voiced comments and proposals, adopt effective measures for them and promptly inform the communists of what is being done on their initiatives. The carrying out of the conference decisions, the proposals and comments of the communists must be under constant control. Even now it is important to organize the instructing of the newly elected party organization secretaries, the members of the party committees and party bureaus and plan this work according to categories and dates for holding seminars and instruction exercises.

The report-election meetings in the primary party organizations are an exacting review of party work. It is essential to more fully utilize them to mobilize the communists and all the personnel of the Soviet Armed Forces to effectively carry out the tasks posed by the USSR minister of defense for the 1985 training year, for a proper celebrating of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War and the forthcoming 27th CPSU Congress.

MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

GREATER ROLE FOR PEOPLE'S CONTROL IN EFFICIENCY URGED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Maj L. Shepurev, party committee member and chairman of the regiment's people's control group, and Lt Col M. Malygin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, from the Southern Group of Forces: "Grounds for a Serious Discussion"]

[Text] Prior to the start of the report-election meeting in the subunit, we, the members of the regimental people's control group, listened with interest to Sr Lt L. Lavrov. He is a principled person who responds acutely to each instance of mismanagement. And now, although he himself comes from another subunit, he did not hesitate to voice his ideas to comrades.

"Look," he said offering a transport work ticket, "here they have not recorded when the vehicle was inspected, and fuel consumption during the trip was understated as one figure has been entered but it was discovered that much more was issued. Where did the fuel go? And why has this fact, like other similar ones, not alerted you?"

The questions were directed to Sr Lt G. Semkin, a platoon commander and also a member of the people's control group. But for him, in essence, it was a discovery that the subunit in which he served held the "leading" place in the regiment for the overconsumption of fuel. For this reason, the controller could not find an answer.

"Thus it turns out," sighed Lavrov with bitterness, "that Martynenko has a plus while Yarulin has a minus. As a result there is no saving."

Capt E. Yarulin is a commander of a subunit where the party organization was about to begin its report-election meeting. As we can see there were grounds for a serious discussion at it about increasing the militancy of the communists in the fight for savings and thriftiness and a thrifty attitude toward state and military property. All the more as both the regiment commander and the party committee had pointed to instances of mismanagement in the subunit.

However, the speaker and secretary of the party organization, Sr Lt V. Skomorkha, and Capt E. Yarulin, Sr Lt G. Semkin and others who participated in the debates did not even refer generally to these questions. And at present they are assuming particular importance.

In speaking at the All-Union Conference of People's Controllers, Comrade K. U. Chernenko emphasized that a very great deal depends upon the work of the people's controllers in the further progress of our country. And this applies fully to the army people's controllers. Their work most directly influences a higher combat readiness of the units and subunits, as well as the strengthening of order, organization and discipline.

Undoubtedly, at the report-election party meetings it is essential to speak about the economic work being done in the subunit and unit and it is essential to analyze the involvement of the communists in the people's control bodies. Here, we repeat, is a direct dependence of party support for combat readiness.

A sharp and very apt discussion of these questions was held at the report-election meeting in the party organization of another subunit. Let us recall: when Sr Lt Lavrov in talking with us mentioned the "pluses" and "minuses," by the "pluses" he understood the results achieved in savings and thriftiness in the company under the command of Sr Lt V. Martynenko. Here at each exercise in driving or firing, as a rule, they save 1-1.5 percent by the skillful operation of the equipment. The figure seemingly is a small one. But if one multiplies it by the number of exercises, it is rather impressive. And even if it is considered that scarce spare parts are saved by extending the operating time between repairs for the infantry combat vehicles, the economic effect is rather impressive.

The communists of the company party organization stand at the sources of the struggle for an economic, state attitude toward material resources. As they themselves figure, the reserves are still far from depleted. In the subunit's party organization which is headed by the company master sergeant, WO ["praporshchik"] I. Krasnyuk, they profoundly and efficiently analyze the consumption of materials, mistakes in the training procedures and training process which involve an irrational expenditure of resources. And this was also the case at the report-election meeting.

They posed the question fully and on a statewide scale: an analysis of the military-economic aspect of the activities of the communists and each soldier is essential not only for determining the savings. Military affairs themselves require precise calculations. It is impossible to speak about the high professional training of an officer, warrant officer or soldier if he is unable to define all that is required for logistical support for combat or the training process or if he does not know what a day of an exercise or training will need.

Let us add one other small comment in this context. Here they have organized a competition between the platoons and squads for exemplary order in the safe-keeping and storage of military property and for the right to be called a thrifty squad or platoon.

Thus, the interest of the communists extends beyond the limits of mere savings. Linked to this is their struggle for intelligent training methods and strict command figuring while a feeling of being the master and a highly moral attitude toward public property are instilled in the men.

Unfortunately, as was already pointed out, not all the party organizations of the regiment are permeated by a concern for savings and thriftiness. The wastefulness of some nullifies the efforts of others. As a result, everything that was saved, for example, in the company of Sr Lt Martynenko went to cover the overexpenditure of materials allowed in the subunit of Capt Yarulin.

The unit party committee and the people's control group have generalized the critical comments and proposals voiced by the communists at the report-election meetings. Clearly, for example, we must intensify the propagandizing of advanced experience and improve the quality of the agitation-propaganda measures on the questions of savings and thriftiness. There is an obvious need to direct control not only at discovering shortcomings but also at their prevention. In addition, as was correctly pointed out by the communists, it is important that the men see that a decisive, uncompromising struggle is being waged against shortcomings, that the results of this are widely publicized and that all the communists take an active part in this work.

The party committee has already been concerned that at the following meetings the questions of indoctrinating thriftiness assume a proper place and that the work of the communists elected to the people's control bodies be thoroughly analyzed.

And at the report-election meeting we again hear the voice of Sr Lt A. Lazarev:

"If the firing during the training is done by mere routine, if there is no room for tactical creativity, then the means spent by us do not bring the expected result."

Lt I. Lomonosov with firm conviction stated:

"The ability to count, that is, to consider material expenditures is a most important indicator of the level of our command skills and our military culture."

The question came up that it is essential to organize the training of the controllers using the example of the best of them, to indoctrinate in each the ability to go deeply into the question and achieve fundamental changes if shortcomings have been discovered. They recalled Sr Lt Lavrov and in particular that sound work he had done at one time together with Sr Lt A. Rylov. Then they had discovered laxness in the accounting and the irrational expenditure of material resources by the company master sergeant, WO V. Cherpovetskiy. He was justly punished. Seemingly this could have been the end of the matter. But the people's controllers posed for the regiment's command a series of questions demanding an immediate resolution. The first of them was that not all the company commanders had been trained in running the company services and had escaped, so to speak, the responsibility for this. In particular, the company commander, Sr Lt O. Savchenko, was pleased by this, having turned over all the work to the sergeant major who, benefiting from the lack of control, began to show negligence in the safekeeping of property.

Upon the decision of the unit commander, a demonstration exercise was held on the running of the company administration and services and on organizing their

accounting and safekeeping. This was also useful for both the company commanders and for the subunit sergeant major. Upon the recommendation of the people's controllers at a party commission session, reports were given by the secretaries of those party organizations where the communists had not paid proper attention to the struggle for savings and thriftiness. The indoctrinational importance of these measures is obvious.

In a word, in the course of the reports and elections in the party organizations, the regiment's communists had a thorough discussion of one of the most important problems in party work.

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CSO: 1801/48

MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

INADEQUATE ATTENTION GIVEN TO 'DISCIPLINE'

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by KRSNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Col V. Bogdanovskiy from the Red Banner Carpathian Military District: "If One Looks at the Root"]

[Text] According to the results of the training year, the motorized rifle battalion under the command of Maj A. Parashchuk did not achieve the goals planned in the competition. Why?

In searching for an answer to the question, I called upon the division's political section and spoke with the regiment's commander and the party committee secretary. The picture was filled out in general terms. Finally it became clear, I felt, at the report-election party meeting in the battalion.

I listened closely to the report given by the party organization secretary, Sr Lt O. Zhaloba as well as Capt A. Ponomarchuk, Sr Lt S. Pavlov and other communists who spoke in the debates. Yes, they recognized, there was nothing to be particularly proud about. There were more than enough shortcomings. And the reasons were named. There were failings in the planning of combat and political training, the frequent diverting of men to carry out various economic jobs and the unreliable operation of the equipment in the combat training group....

All well and good, but this, I felt, was merely the consequence. The main reason was that the party organization had overlooked the questions of military, party discipline in the broad sense in which the party views it. In his speech at the October (1984) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade K. U. Chernenko, directly emphasized the need "with greater energy and tenacity...to raise organization and to strengthen planning and production discipline, particularly in lagging areas."

Unfortunately, neither in the accountability report nor in the debates was there a business-like and principled discussion of this. Incidentally, one episode comes to mind. In turning to the chief of the division's political section who was present at the meeting, Maj M. Makarov said: "We are hopeful that the political section will help us put Sr Lt Mikhaylov in his place...."

Sr Lt A. Mikhaylov, of course, did not become inefficient all at once. He was late for service the first time and no one made a problem. He carried out the commander's order unconscientiously and again this went uncommented on. Then he committed a major infraction of military discipline and received a service reprimand. Infractions of discipline became more frequent in the battalion, but there was no party response. Exactingness, if it was demanded, was largely shown by the commander. The voice of the party community was hardly heard. A situation of indifference, all-forgiveness are quite naturally fine grounds for a lessening of discipline, as they say, all the way round.

It is exceptionally important to create a situation so that soaring over everyone, if it can be put this way, is a spirit of exceptionally high exactingness. Exactingness for everyone, everything and at every step. In large and small. It is difficult to overestimate the role of the party organization in creating and maintaining such an atmosphere. Essentially here lies the main spring in the struggle for firm prescribed order and for instilling efficiency and clarity in all matters in the men. And it is precisely here that each party organization should see the main point for applying its forces in aiding the commander. Without such understanding, that is, unflagging exactingness along a broad front, there will be no success but rather the staggering from one failure to the next and there will be merely sporadic "measures" which determine little.

The battalion party organization was in such a situation. Much simply had not been noticed. Take the key question, the vanguard role of the communists. Among them were those who worked without particular effort and who violated discipline. But they did not feel strong party accountability. How could they feel it if the secretary himself, Sr Lt O. Zhaloba, had received a reprimand for poor military efficiency. No one was concerned by the fact that according to the results of the spring inspection certain communists had not fulfilled their obligations in the socialist competition. Certainly a unity of word and deed is an indicator of a communist's responsible attitude to what he had promised, his discipline and self-discipline.

A situation of deep-rooted indifference produces its own psychology when many infractions of discipline are not seen as wrongs and they are generally not correlated to discipline. For instance, an officer is walking along in a wrinkled uniform. And he does not return the salute of soldiers. The company sergeant major is late in submitting the week schedule for exercises for approval. The innovators have not worked out measures to improve the training facilities by the established date. An indoctrinational measure designated for such and such an hour was not held and the men were sent out for outside work....

All of this is a lack of discipline. And to strengthen it means to respond implacably to such manifestations of laxness, and instill in the personnel, primarily and of course, in the communists, a sharp response to the slightest deviation from its requirements.

For instance, we asked the communists on the battalion staff who of them had participated in the work of the company Komsomol organizations and who had given talks and lectures to the men? We did not hear an intelligent response.

Work with the youth is a duty and obligation of each communist. Again this is a question of discipline. Primarily party discipline. And the question is one of "duty" and "obligation." And not one of I will work if I want.

And it, the question of discipline and efficiency, arises when we speak of the work related to preparations for the 40th anniversary of the great victory. There is a special decree of the party Central Committee. Hence, each communist is obliged to make his own contribution here. And what was done in the battalion during the report period? Unfortunately, again there is nothing to be proud of. For some reason certain of the communists feel that the fulfillment of the general party requirements concerns them only "indirectly," that is, they are not, supposedly, addressed "personally" to them. The party organization has not dispelled this profound confusion. One other "loss" in the problem of indoctrinating high inner discipline and precise order in work.

During a break in the report meeting, I asked the deputy commander for political affairs and the secretary of the Komsomol committee what subunits had assumed obligations to fight for the right to be called outstanding? Maj M. Markov and WO ["praporshchik"] A. Nichiporuk merely shrugged their shoulders. In truth, WO Nichiporuk added: "I have been serving just several months in the battalion." The battalion chief of staff, Maj O. Mokhnarylov came to my aid. He proposed that we take a look at the documents.

And what to our amazement when in the list of subunits fighting for the right to be called outstanding we saw also the platoon commanded by the very Sr Lt A. Mikhaylov. A lamentable mistake? However, further familiarity with the organization of the competition in the battalion showed that it was no mistake. This was the result of the fact that neither the commanders nor the party organization was truly concerned with the competition in the battalion.

Let us not assert that the party organization completely overlooked the questions of strengthening organization and discipline. It did but only from the standpoint of today's needs. The personnel worked without any effort as here they hoped that the high results achieved in the past would "ipso facto" make it possible to take leading positions in the current year. The wagering on old glory failed. With good reason the people say that old glory loves new. And in order for this to happen, the battalion's communists should have rethought the problem of the struggle for discipline and resolve it in an inseparable unity of the many components. The way to ensuring this is by increasing exactingness. Exactingness, as has already been pointed out, for each man, at every step and along a broad front.

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CSO: 1801/48

GROUND FORCES

UNIT'S SUCCESSES, SHORTCOMINGS IN USING NEW EQUIPMENT NOTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Oct 84 pp 1-2

[Article: "Ground Forces: The Red Banner, Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov Regiment, the Initiator of the Competition, Has Fulfilled the Obligations"]

[Text] This regiment has a glorious combat history. Organized during the years of the Great Patriotic War, it fought its way from Kursk to Berlin. Its soldiers were among the first to cross the Dniepr and they participated in the liberation of Kiev, Lvov, Prague and many other large and small population points.

Continuing the heroic traditions of the regiment, many new vivid pages have been inscribed in its history during the postwar years by the heirs of the frontline veterans. For many years, the unit has had the high title of outstanding.

In the concluding training year, the regiment which is presently under the command of Maj A. Stolyarov was the initiator of a socialist competition in the Ground Forces under the motto "To Be On Guard, in Constant Readiness to Defend the Victories of Socialism!" In being profoundly aware of their responsibility for the security of the motherland and for the fate of socialism confronting the increased military danger brought about by the imperialists, the men of the regiment have steadily conquered the planned heights of combat development and have strengthened discipline, organization and order.

The Proskurovo motorized rifle troops have honorably carried out the assumed obligations and emerged the victors in the competition with the regiment under the command of Guards Lt Col V. Zvyagintsev. The Proskurovo regiment has again become outstanding. The time required to bring it to combat readiness has been reduced by 12-15 percent and the skills of the subunits for all the basic disciplines were given the highest grade. A significant exceeding of the time indicators was achieved in carrying out the combat training missions. Everyone who should has a class rating and more than 70 percent of these are higher ratings. Complete interchangeability has been achieved in the squads, crews and teams. More than 90 percent of the officers, warrant officers ["praporshchik"], sergeants and soldiers have become holders of the VSK [Military-Sports Complex] badges and rated athletes.

The accomplishments of the motorized rifle troops in combat and political training have been brought about by the high effectiveness of the competition and by the intense, purposeful work carried out by the commander, the staff, the party and Komsomol organizations and by the personal example set by the regiment's communists and Komsomol members.

Today below we are publishing articles by a group of officers from the Proskurovo Motorized Rifle Regiment who, at the request of a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, have shared their experience of mastering the new equipment and weapons as initiated in the unit under the motto "A Higher Level of Mastery for the New Equipment!"

Maj A. Stolyarov, the Regiment's Commander:

If one were to speak briefly about what has contributed to our success in the competition with the regiment under the command of Guards Lt Col V. Zvyagintsev, first of all, I think, we must mention that the emphasis was put on improving the technical training of the personnel. This level, of course, is best seen in exercises where the men frequently work and utilize the weapons and combat equipment, as they say, under extremal conditions.

Let me give an example. The very rugged terrain on which the battalion under the command of Capt A. Kereyev had to enter into battle without a halt after a long nighttime march, impeded the control of the subunits. Moreover, during the night the "enemy" had set up man-made obstacles on its left flank. In order to go around the obstacle and at the same time attack the "enemy" from different directions, one of the companies had to cross an impassable area as quickly as possible. And the accompanying under the command of Sr Lt A. Vorobey carried out this mission.

Understandably, this became possible due to the ability of the personnel to make effective use of the combat equipment and weapons on the battlefield. But this, certainly, did not come about by itself.

Prior to the start of the training year, having checked the preparation of the specialists arriving from the training subunits, we were persuaded that not all of them were ready to carry out the difficult missions confronting the regiment. Additional effort was needed to improve the technical and weapons-tactical training of certain officers who during the previous training year had not fulfilled their obligations for a class rating.

"A Higher Level of Mastery for the New Equipment!"--this motto was to underlie all our organizational work. Naturally the tasks involved with the instruction and indoctrination of the personnel were now viewed through the prism of technical skills. This required a certain reorganization in the planning of the training process and more active involvement in the conducting of exercises with the subunits by the regiment's deputy commanders and specialists from the services.

For example, the demonstration exercises conducted by the regiment's deputy commander Maj O. Makodeyev in the company under the command of Sr Lt O. Andrianov, in the opinion of the officers, were interesting and useful. From the experience

of this company, the subunit commanders were shown how to better organize a competition for tasks and norms at the technical training exercises.

The officers of the regiment's armored service, including the deputy chief of this service, Capt O. Bulatov, who was recently promoted, made a substantial contribution to improving the training process and increasing the effectiveness of the competition.

At the start of the year there were instances when the trainers and other training equipment stood idle in the classrooms and at the weapons range. This happened because certain officers were accustomed to work as follows: if an exercise was planned, for instance, in weapons training or driving, then without fail this had to be done using the equipment. Here at times they did not consider that the personnel was not ready to operate it.

Having heard a report from Capt Bulatov who was assigned to study this question, we concluded that flaws in the work of the regiment's staff had contributed largely to the existing practice. In the subunits they plan exercises exclusively on the equipment while the regiment's staff stands by. We decided to put an end to this practice. Control was strengthened over the observance by the subunit commanders of the proper sequence in training subordinates. Exercises involving equipment began to be conducted only after all the necessary questions had been worked through on trainers. And things improved. The skill of the specialists began to increase more rapidly. At the same time expenditures on training were noticeably reduced.

I feel that in this area we must do further work. As a check has shown, we do have reserves to make the training process even more intense and economic. These are related primarily to increasing the responsibility of each official for the assigned job, to strengthening discipline and order in all levels of the regimental organism and to improving the professional training of the officers. At present, our task is to put all these reserves as quickly as possible into operation and make the most efficient use of them in the interests of further increasing combat readiness.

Capt O. Kutsenko, Deputy Regimental Commander for Weapons:

At the start of the year, in describing the state of affairs in the regiment, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote that the end result in the competition would depend largely upon whether we were able to set a steadier rhythm in the training process. But a clear pace in the training process, as is known, is inconceivable without a physical plant which meets the highest requirements. In our regiment this still did not fully meet these demands. For this reason, along with other questions, we had to be concerned with improving the training facilities.

In the aim of intensifying this work, an initiative group was established and this included specialists from the various services. Success here was aided by the fact that the questions of improving the training facilities were reflected in the individual obligations of the officers. Each could be asked how he was keeping his word. In truth, even without this the men showed activity and initiative.

For example, the regiment received an electronic trainer for training gunners and immediately fans were found who promised to master it in the shortest time. The first to carry out this task was the battalion commander, Lt Col G. Nedov and the company commander, Sr Lt S. Boldin. Their recommendations on operating the trainer considering the local conditions became a guide for all the regiment's officers.

In a word, the fact that this year we have more outstanding men and high class specialists is largely explained by the constant concern of the entire collective for improving the training facilities.

Particularly pleasing is the increased technical training of the officers. At present, the regiment has over 80 percent of the officers who are specialists 1st and 2d class, and many of them have increased their class rating precisely in this year. I feel that along with greater attention to this question in the system of commander training, one also feels that the officers have taken an active part in the work of the technical and weapons circles and in conducting question and answer evenings, competitions and conferences on technical subjects. All of this complements well the planned training.

Unfortunately, as yet it cannot be said that all our subunit commanders show a proper sense of responsibility for their technical training. What is the result of this? Once during a driving exercise in the company under the command of Capt Yu. Glukhov, the engine of one of the infantry combat vehicles developed a malfunction. The malfunction seemingly was, as they say, a trifle. Nevertheless, neither the company commander nor the other officers were able to detect it....

There are also instances when a platoon or company commander clearly does not know how to ready a weapon for normal combat or, in trying to do this, so "messes up" the sight devices that the weapons specialists must later on spend a long time correcting this.

Generally speaking, there are also many shortcomings in the personal training of the officer. At present, we are studying the reasons for them and are setting out specific measures to eliminate them. We see in this one of the conditions for further advance along the path of improving technical skills.

Capt Yu. Gogichayev, Deputy Battalion Commander for Political Affairs:

I well remember the battalion's open party meeting held soon after we had adopted the socialist obligations. The main thought in the speeches of the communists was that they had to start with themselves.

At present, with satisfaction one might point out that this was not merely good words. Each communist in the battalion has increased his class rating and five of them--Capt A. Sabovoy, Sr Lts G. Platonov, V. Ovcharenko, V. Fat'yanov and V. Kurlov, have become specialists 1st class.

I would not say that the task of improving the skills of the personnel, including the officers, has been carried out by us without difficulty. At first, for example, some did not show proper activity in the struggle for a class rating.

In particular, at one of the party meetings Lt V. Pozdyayev was subjected to sharp criticism. It had to be explained to him and certain other officers that a rise in the class rating was not a personal concern of the subunit commander and that this was essential so that he could correctly instruct his subordinates.

The conversation hit its mark and Lt Pozdyayev ultimately passed his exams for 2d class. There was also an improvement in the other officers among those who initially did not show the necessary zeal in improving their technical skills.

I feel that a role was also played here by the fact that the party and Komsomol organizations constantly focused the men on a creative approach to the question. There was a constant struggle so that the officers not only thoroughly knew, for example, the capabilities of the equipment and weapons, but also actively looked for their own methods for the combat employment of the weapons which were distinct from the already existing and customary ones. And this produced results: numerous valuable proposals on improving the training process and organizing the competition were made, for example, by such officers as Yu. Ostapchuk and Yu. Bazhenov. Their introduction also helped the battalion in fulfilling its obligations.

We, undoubtedly, will continue the work in this area. But more thought must be given to how we can raise the moral responsibility of the officers for their contribution to improving the training process. Here there are reserves. Obviously we must more frequently commend those who show initiative and creativity and consider this in the certification of the officers.

At present, we are reflecting on how to make each officer view the mastery of the equipment from commander standpoints. As is known, a commander must have more than the simple ability, for instance, to operate a combat vehicle. He should know where its strong and weak points lie, and how to best utilize it on the battlefield. As an inspection showed, we still have subunit commanders who have a perfect knowledge of the design of the vehicle's engine but do not know how to properly use this in combat training. This applies particularly to the recent graduates of military schools. Obviously we must watch more closely so that in commander training a correct balance is maintained between the theoretical exercises and work on the equipment and drills on the control of the subunits in the field. Technical training should be carried out in an inseparable link with tactics.

Yes, we have much to do, relying on the acquired experience, in order to go farther and achieve more in technical training. The motto for this work remains as before: "A Higher Level of Mastery for the New Equipment!"

10272

CSO: 1801/54

GROUND FORCES

OFFICERS ASSAILED FOR POOR RESULTS IN FIRING EXERCISES

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 84 p 2

[Article by Col V. Kulish, senior officer of the Chief Directorate of Ground Force Combat Training, under the rubric "Reflecting on the Results of the Training Year": "Lost Opportunities"]

[Text] The officers were doing an exercise in the first run of night firing. They acted confidently during the exercises preceding the final evaluation. For this reason, battalion commander Capt A. Dzharbulov was calm. He hoped that even now the officers would set an example for their subordinates.

However, it was revealed after examination of the targets that Sr Lt A. Volodin and Lt A. Antufyev rated only "good", while Lt S. Yakovlev did not even hit the target.

The motorized riflemen did not fire any better in subsequent runs. Moreover, the battalion commander was in no way successful in ensuring precise rhythm for the exercise. The forced breaks also reflected negatively on the men's spirits.

After the firing, Capt Dzharbulov said dejectedly: "We really did lose a chance to show the evaluators from Moscow that our failures in weapons training at the beginning of the summer training cycle were accidental. We could really have..."

It is very difficult not to agree with the battalion commander. Besides, now that the results for the regiment's other subunits are known, and they testify to the fact that the units personnel have not met their commitments, there is good reason to reflect on the reasons for the failures not only in the battalion mentioned.

And so, what are these reasons which interfered with the achievement of the designated levels in the competition? In order to answer this question, let us return to the riflemen's failures at the beginning of the summer training cycle which Capt Dzharbulov talked about.

The point is that a group of officers from the Chief Directorate of Ground Forces Combat Training was working at the beginning of the summer in some of the units and subunits of the Ural Military District. The subunits of the regiment being discussed were also subjected to inspection. During the control exercises conducted then, many serious inadequacies in the organization of training and socialist competition were uncovered; these inadequacies, of course, negatively influenced the training of personnel. In the opinion of the specialists, the methods training of a number of officers also left something to be desired.

Some of the officers of the battalion commanded by Capt Dzharbulov in particular were severely reprimanded for this situation. It was revealed that they focused too little attention on improving the fire control training of subordinates and on organizing mission and normative competition. It was exactly this which was one of the reasons, for example, that the companies commanded by senior lieutenants T. Minikeyev and A. Volodin received unsatisfactory grades during their test exercises.

And how did people in the regiment react to such discomfiting results of a test conducted at the beginning of summer training? Judging by reports, the reaction was: They spoke about the need to raise the quality of the exercises, including those for commanders, and about the effectiveness of competition at service conferences and party meetings. Even the regimental party committee had a part in all this too. Reports from battalion commanders Maj V. Pavlov and Maj N. Zakalyuzhnyi and other communists on their personal contribution in raising the effectiveness and quality of the exercises and the effectiveness of competition were heard at a committee session. Specific recommendations were made for improving their work style and methodological expertise.

All of this, we have to assume, could have resulted in specific advantages. But the trouble is that all this talk, as the final evaluation showed, did not go very far in the regiment.

Let us take Capt Dzharbulov's battalion. Until that first test, he was considered to be one of the regiment's best commanders. As a rule, demonstration exercises were conducted in his area. But then the test exercises, conducted by the officers of the Chief Directorate for Ground Forces Combat Training, showed that even here there were many unutilized reserves. The regimental staff should have reflected on the reasons for the failure of the competition pacemakers and then have helped them correct any omissions by the end of the training year. But for some reason, they considered this failure to be accidental and, after having reproved Capt Dzharbulov a bit for his omissions in tactical weapons training, left him alone, believing that he could, so to say, do away with the shortcomings himself. Thus, the battalion, which had been far out in front of the others fell behind and both the regimental and divisional staffs lost track of it.

We cannot say that Capt Dzharbulov and the other battalion officers were idle. Exercises and training exercises were conducted regularly. What level of quality, however, did these exercises have? This was made known only in the course of the overall evaluation. Here, it turned out, for example, that many soldiers in Sr Lt Volodin's company had mastered the theory of weapons fire poorly and had not acquired firm skills in handling their weapons. Even the commander himself, as we already know, did not display any brilliant expertise on the night firing range.

We can say the same for several other regimental subunits and their commanders. Having found themselves in conditions approximating combat in the cause of the final evaluation exercises, far from all the soldiers, including the officers as well, demonstrated a high level of tactical weapons training.

Thus, the results of the final evaluation exercises show best of all that the people in the regiment did not know how to learn a lesson from shortcomings pointed out to them by the representatives of the Chief Directorate for Ground Forces Combat Training at the beginning of the summer training cycle. Neither the initiative, nor the persistence to go from words to deeds were forthcoming from the regimental staff or party committee.

We all know how much effective supervision over the course of the training cycle means in the achievement of success in combat and political training. Neither the regimental nor divisional staffs, unfortunately, provided such supervision. To be sure, senior leaders and representatives of the higher staffs and political organs dropped in to visit the subunits. No noticeable trace of their work, however, was left behind because all they did was to record the shortcomings and make general recommendations for improving the style of the work being done. Afterwards, they often never asked how these recommendations were being implemented by the officials to whom they had been addressed. It is quite normal therefore that the entire work to eliminate the shortcomings revealed at the beginning of the summer, boiled down in the regiment to conversations at various kinds of meetings and conferences. As far as real, practical work to motivate people to the high-quality implementation of combat and political training plans and to meet their commitments in competition was concerned, there just, as they say, was no time.

Officer training in the regiment was another weak link in the chain. Recording of the exercises had been neglected, but the main thing was that these exercises were far from always conducted at the required level. For example, at the final testing it was revealed that some of the subunit commanders had a poor knowledge of the provisions of combat field manuals and documents providing guidance for combat training. This is a serious omission, of course, primarily on the part of the regimental staff which was supposed to organize the study of these documents and supervise the execution of their requirements.

The staff and the party committee were also weak in ensuring that the officers provide personal examples in study and competition. The majority of the unit's officers strive to be on top of current requirements; they work constantly to further their professional development and provide subordinates a model of discipline. However, not all. I have already mentioned how Lt Yakovlev received an unsatisfactory grade for his fire from a BMP and did not meet his commitments; he thereby let both his company and battalion down. This was no accident. Throughout the entire period of training, the young officer was not distinguished for his diligence in pursuing study or discipline. The battalion commander and the party organization, however, failed to attach the required significance to this in time. The result: the officer fell behind the others. Unfortunately, such examples are quite common.

In dwelling on the negative aspects in the training of the regiment's personnel which were revealed in the final testing, I have to note: This does not mean at all that everyone here only "marked time" during the training year. The unit has many subunits which achieved high scores in all training subjects, including tactical weapons training. Among these subunits is Sr Lt T. Minikeyev's company and other such subunits. During the testing, the personnel of these subunits demonstrated good firing skills and the ability to effectively utilize their weapons and equipment in combat.

However there could be considerably more such subunits; the contribution of the officers to the enhancement of the regiment's combat readiness and the meeting of commitments in socialist competition could be considerably greater. There were all the opportunities for this, but they were not taken advantage of in the best possible way.

The regiment's officers now have a host of problems facing them. They see the mistakes in their work. They only have to undertake specific measures to eliminate the shortcomings cited and do all they can to set a firm course from the first day of the new training year for the high quality implementation of their combat and political training plans and achievement of their commitments in socialist competition.

12247

CSO: 1801/56

GROUND FORCES

BATTALION'S POOR FIRING RESULTS CRITICIZED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Maj A. Deryabin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent in the Red Banner Baltic Military District: "Only Real Combat Will Tell. Final Evaluation Exercises Are Underway."]

[Text] Rain had been falling the entire day before the battalion tactical field firing exercise. Taking this into account, the exercise director directed Guards Captain M. Vagin to pay particular attention to the organization of the subunits' forward movement from their staging area. Under existing conditions, the slightest hitch could delay the subunits' in their move to their specified line...

The battalion attacked "the enemy" at exactly the designated time. A wave of BMPs struck the defenders' strong point literally behind the exploding shells. Lines of motorized riflemen moved over the field. Guards Capt Vagin's precise, confident commands could be heard over the radio. He was firmly in control of the battle. All it took, for example, was for Guards Capt Fesyuk's right-flank company to deviate slightly to the left of the specified line of attack and the battalion commander jumped in with appropriate orders. The break between the subunits was eliminated.

It can be said that some unexpected things happened during the exercises. During the pursuit of the withdrawing "enemy", one of the BMPs in Guards Sr Lt S. Zakharov's company broke down in a swamp. Vagin's reaction was instantaneous. He ordered the attached artillery battalion's commander, Guards Maj A. Antishin, to lay some defensive fire in front of the company. Under its cover, the mired vehicle was quickly freed from captivity in the swamp.

Striving as hard as possible to break the tempo of the motorized riflemen's forward movement, "the enemy" counterattacked against the battalion's right flank. The battalion commander decided to repulse it by firing from a halted position and then to commit to action his second echelon, a motorized rifle company commanded by Guards Capt N. Pashkov.

Vagin certainly understood: His selected plan of action meant a temporary loss of the initiative--a halt is a halt. But there was no other course he could follow in the situation that had developed. Any maneuver through the range's mud for the purpose of striking the counterattacking "enemy" in his flank with a part of his forces could take a lot of time and the armored "enemy" fist would come down on the weakened battalion...

While the artillery and attack helicopters rained blows on the advancing "enemy" reserves, Vagin regrouped his forces. The attached tank company, commanded by Guards Capt V. Yasyevich, moved out along a favorable route, dispersed into the folds of the terrain, and prepared to meet "the enemy" with accurate fire. The BMPs occupied suitable positions for firing their anti-tank guided missiles.

Silence hung over the battlefield for several minutes. Suddenly, (counterattacking!) targets appear, and again the booming echo of shots and exploding shells is heard. The battle heats up with new vigor.

It was already dusk when the battalion was stopped: the exercise was finished. On a more or less dry patch of range, a critique of the motorized riflemen's actions took place.

This is what one of the umpires, Col V. Gusyev, a senior officer of the Chief Directorate of Ground Forces Combat Training, said about what he had seen:

"First of all, I would like to mention the battalion commander's thorough professional preparedness, his broad tactical scope, knowledge of equipment and weapons capabilities, and finally his skill in best utilizing them on the battlefield. Also characteristic of him is his ability to thoroughly understand assigned mission, and to examine all the fine points of coordination and subunit field security. I believe it to be a positive factor that the battalion commander does not hesitate to ask a question and to seek clarification if he finds anything unclear when he is receiving his orders and organizing combat. As a result, he acts exceptionally independently during battle, demonstrates judicious initiative and creativity, and commands and controls his forces and assets calmly and confidently. I can say that on the whole, the battalion successfully executed its assigned missions. But there are still some shortcomings. They concern primarily weapons training. An examination of the targets after the exercise showed that while there was a rather high overall percentage of small arms target hits with thick clusters of five to eight bullet holes in some targets, other targets had no bullet holes at all. This means that all is still not well with the battalion's fire control, and this primarily in such sections as squads and crews. And another thing, company and platoon commanders often lose much time on secondary issues in organizing for combat on the ground; they sometimes forget to allow the necessary time to their subordinates. I wish that battalion officers would fully realize that on the training ground,

they are not simply shooting and driving combat vehicles, and not just attacking and defending for the sake of a grade. They are preparing for battle with a strong, aggressive and well-equipped enemy."

This exercise was battalion commander Guards Capt Vagin's first test in his overall evaluation. Operating under difficult conditions, the soldiers again learned that a high standard of combat is the main and most reliable measure of expertise.

12247

CSO: 1801/56

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

TRAINING SUCCESSES, SHORTCOMINGS IN FIGHTER REGIMENT NOTED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 84 pp 1-2

[Article: "Air Forces: The Guards Fighter Air Regiment X, the Initiator of the Competition, Has Fulfilled Its Obligations"]

[Text] The guards aviators of the regiment under the command of Guards Lt Col Yu. Temnikov, in the concluded training year were the initiators of a socialist competition in the Air Forces for achieving new, higher limits in combat training and military service. A final inspection showed that the aviators had fully carried out the training plans and the high socialist obligations. Two squadrons and a maintenance unit in the regiment became outstanding. The same results were achieved by 86 percent of the flight crews. A majority of the pilots, engineers and technicians have a higher class rating. The average number of points for piloting, equipment, aerodynamics and tactics is 4.7. For the basic disciplines of ground training it is 4.6. The time required to bring the regiment to combat readiness has been reduced by 5 percent. The tactical flight exercises were carried out with an outstanding grade. As in the previous 11 years, the regiment operated without flight accidents. Physical training and sports are highly regarded amongst the guardsmen. Some 90 percent of the unit's aviators have become rated athletes and holders of the VSK [Military Sports Complex] insignia.

All these achievements are the result of the great effort by the military collective, the commanders, the political workers, the party and Komsomol organizations.

At present below the regiment's aviators share their experience in strengthening combat readiness, military discipline, ensuring flight safety and organizing the socialist competition.

Guards Lt Col Yu. Temnikov, Regimental Commander

I assumed command of the guards fighter air regiment a year ago. I was flying to my new assignment and reflecting over the facts which had been given to me before my appointment: the famous combat collective for 9 years running had been outstanding but on the 9th year had not been able to fully carry out the socialist obligations. It appeared that under the varnish of many years of well being, the training process and discipline had begun to weaken while

laxness had sunk deep roots. Certainly no one can eradicate complacency in a single swoop and I ahead of time had hardened myself to some rough and extended work.

And what a surprise it was when my deputy for political affairs, Guards Lt Col V. Marshkin, upon meeting informed me that the regiment was getting ready to come forward with an appeal to the personnel of the Air Forces. At that time I refrained from commenting but for myself I was pleased. The prospect was obvious, I thought: I had correctly guessed the large amount of work but it would not be extended but rather it would be shock work, with the concentrating of all forces on the rapid achieving of success.

Our guards regiment has glorious traditions. In its combat biography are 18,000 combat sorties, more than 500 air battles and 316 destroyed enemy aircraft. Some 16 of our guardsmen have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union while Guards Lt Vasiliy Sobin has been entered in perpetuity on the regiment's rolls.

I studied the traditions of the guards unit, I became familiar with the men and felt in them a determination to recover the title of an excellent regiment and to further increase its combat readiness.

At a general unit meeting, at the start of the training year, the regiment's personnel initiated a socialist competition in the Air Forces under the motto "To Be On Guard, in Constant Combat Readiness to Defend the Victories of Socialism!" We realized that it was not an easy thing to struggle for the title of an outstanding regiment. We not only had to correct individual aspects in service and thereby recover our former glory without any special effort. No, it was essential in a short period of time to reorganize a number of questions of combat training and first of all increase the combat capability of the regiment and raise its underlying components to the proper level, that is: air skills and flight safety. That a solution to this problem could not be deferred could be seen not only from the facts of the previous "bad luck" year but also the new one when we had already become the initiators of the competition.

Guards Maj V. Babushkin, a most experienced pilot, had received the Order of the Red Banner for carrying out his international duty in Afghanistan. For the young aviators, he had high regard both as a man and as an air fighter. And all of a sudden there was a near accident. The "guilty party" was Guards Maj Babushkin. The reason was as follows. At the range we had complicated the target situation and the weather had also deteriorated. Under these conditions several young pilots had missed the target with their bombs. Guards Maj Babushkin decided by a personal example to inspire his subordinates to successfully carry out the exercise. From a minimum altitude he hit the target squarely in the "bull's eye," however in pulling out of the attack he came into the fragments of his own shells. "That is how we will conquer the enemy!" said some and Babushkin in their eyes was a hero. But something else was also clear to the aviators, what price was paid for this victory. The target could be destroyed without violating the safety measures.

The regiment's communists saw a serious danger in what had happened and sounded the alarm. At a party meeting they mentioned that the conclusions must be drawn not only by Babushkin but also by the entire regimental collective.

Indoctrinating in the men a feeling of collectivism and responsibility for each other and for the common cause has been a characteristic feature in the work of the commanders, the political workers and the regiment's party activists during the year. Organizational activities were aimed at raising combat readiness.

The struggle for combat readiness naturally has been most closely linked to our general movement to fully carry out the socialist obligations. Not everything has always gone smoothly. In the spring inspection, a number of major shortcomings were indicated to us in the combat advanced training of the aviators. We had overlooked the fact that the weather conditions in our area frequently upset all plans. It had happened at times that we suddenly had to put off the flights and if the squadron commanders had not made previous provision for this, then time was lost which could have been employed, for example, for exercises in trainers or on special equipment. Certainly the ability to see the future helps to increase the effectiveness of combat training.

In exchanging experience, I at times am asked by the commanders of other units: just how are the questions resolved of increasing combat readiness and organizing the socialist competition? It seems to me, that these cannot be split apart at all. For example, the two flights of Guards Capts G. Bastron and V. Yushchenko are competing. They are from two competing outstanding squadrons. One then the other flight moves ahead, increasing the pace in training. And in this they are helped by friendly support, mutual aid and a helping hand, in a word, the competition.

At one time we were working out the missions for combat employment against a difficult tactical background. The flight of Guards Capt Bastron was the first to carry out the exercise. The men successfully handled the mission and the officer immediately told Guards Capt Yushchenko about the particular features of intercepting low-flying targets and gave advice as to which maneuver was best to employ. Yushchenko also carried out the given mission excellently.

In this we see the fruits of competition and comradely support. I am not saying that these flights employ unknown work methods. On the contrary, the secret is that they scrupulously and conscientiously carry out the requirements of the manuals and instructions, they creatively employ the experience gained in the regiment and follow the combat traditions of Soviet aviators.

The leaders in our competition have constantly changed. For example, at the start of the year the first place was held by the outstanding squadron of Guards Maj S. Zakharchenko, while in February it dropped back to third place. It may seem that the outstanding men became conceited and lost their position. Nothing of the sort; simply other subunits were constantly literally on the heels of the leaders. What was the case previously? If the results of the outstanding men did not drop, then by inertia they remained in first place. Now this is not the case. On the stands which show the course of the competition, the names of the

pacesetters are frequently changed. This intensifies the competition. The aviators have realized that only authentic mastery and not chance, not a mistake of the rivals, gives one the right to become a leader which is looked up to. Healthy ambition was expressed in the fact that many pilots, having drawn up long-range plans, overfulfilled the obligations and ahead of time passed the exams for a higher class. Hence, the skill of the air fighters increased as a whole and skill, let me emphasize, and combat capability are interrelated.

Guards Lt Col V. Marshkin, Deputy Regimental Commander for Political Affairs

What have we emphasized primarily in party-political work? At instilling in the men a critical approach to their undertakings and to what they have achieved. We have seen in this constant movement forward. For example, how do we hold the party meetings? The communists speak about the unutilized reserves and that in the future they must work even better.

In the socialist competition the tone for us is set by the fighter pilots and aviation specialists who have undergone good schooling in air and ground skills. Among them are Guards Lt Col V. Lysenok who was recently awarded the Order "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" 3d Degree, Guards Maj A. Funik, the Military Sniper Pilot, Guards Lt Col N. Ostarkhov and many others.

In relying on the communists and Komsomol members, the commanders have carried out the missions confronting the fighters. In feeling the trust, the activists have shown initiative and have tried to assume a great load. Our meetings have become a school for indoctrinating people. At them, the aviators spoke in a business-like and specific manner. Thus, the senior pilot, Guards Capt A. Makkau was sharply critical of instances of oversimplification which had occurred in his squadron. He said that the pilots flew a simple route to the range to bomb the ground targets, they did not employ antiaircraft gun maneuvers and did not skirt the "enemy" air defenses.

The speaker was supported by the party committee member, Guards Lt Col P. Mostovoy. He spoke about the omissions in the moral-psychological training of young pilots.

Immediately after the meeting, the party committee adopted measures to carry out the approved decision. A meeting was organized with Guards Lt Col L. Dovzherko, the winner of the Order of the Red Star. What did the aviators like in this meeting? The exchange of experience. The conversation had a working, professional nature. In the course of it they discussed details of a pilot's conduct in a real combat situation.

Initiative literally spouted all year long. It was particularly valuable in carrying out the plan to increase the regiment's overall combat readiness. The heroic traditions of the guards regiment have obliged us to work in this manner.

Guards Sr Lt V. Lagoda, Technician of an Outstanding Aircraft

We, the young aircraft technicians and air specialists of the various services comprise a good half of the regiment. We maintain complex missile-carrying equipment on equal footing with our experienced comrades. They have helped us to quickly master practical skills.

The overall combat readiness of the combat regiment has depended upon each of us. The poor preparation of a single missile-carrying aircraft for a flight would reduce the combat capability of the entire collective. We felt this from the example of our comrade, Guards Sr Lt A. Artem. Because of his personal negligence, an aircraft was out of service. Several flights for combat employment were in jeopardy.

Experienced technicians headed by Guards Lt Col V. Lysenok worked hard to return the aircraft to service. Having "cured" the aircraft they began to "treat" their comrade. Certainly his failings were our common misfortune. Only together could we bear the regiment's honor high.

The growth of our professional skill was also aided by the strict exactingness of our superiors and by their effective exercises for us. A regular exchange of experience, technical contests on "A Fighter Is a Collective Weapon," and joint conferences with the pilots helped ensure trouble-free operation of the aircraft in the air.

As for the rivalry and desire to be ahead in the competition, this is already a struggle among equals. And it has not died out in our midst. All of this, certainly, helps to maintain a spirit of healthy competition in the unit.

10272

CSO: 1801/54

NAVAL FORCES

'KIROV' COMMANDER, OFFICERS NOTE TRAINING SUCCESSES, FAILURES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Nov 84 pp 1-2

[Article: "The Navy: The Crew of the Red Banner Nuclear-Powered Missile Cruiser 'Kirov,' the Initiator of the Competition, Has Fulfilled the Obligations"]

[Text] Very noteworthy is the fact that during the current year the initiator of the competition in the Navy was precisely the sailors of the "Kirov," a powerful and modern vessel which has inherited the name of the glorious cruiser of the wartime years. The sailors of all the fleets are following with particular interest and attention the successes of the crew on this nuclear-powered giant, the first surface vessel in the history of our Navy with a nuclear propulsion unit. It is all the more pleasant to state that the "Kirov" sailors have equaled the high responsibility which rests on the shoulders of a competition's initiators. During the entire year they set an example of unity in word and deed and a creative attitude toward combat training. They were constantly at the head of the socialist competition among the sailors.

In the past training year, the crew of the "Kirov" took a noticeable step ahead in mastering the modern equipment and weapons with which the cruiser is armed. A difficult ocean cruise was successfully carried out, scores of combat training missions were carried out and more than 90 percent of them with excellent grades. The crew won first place in the Red Banner Northern Fleet for missile and gunnery training.

On the cruiser at present one out of every three officers and warrant officers ["michman"] has the title of "master" and one out of every five has learned the duties one step higher than the position held. Some 72 percent of the personnel are specialists 1st and 2d class. Over the year, around 40 innovation proposals have been worked out and introduced.

All of this was possible due to the active and fruitful work of the ship commander, the cruiser's party and Komsomol organizations in mobilizing the sailor to fight for the unconditional and high-quality fulfillment of the obligations in the competition and to a constant search for reserves of combat readiness.

At present below we are offering the floor to the officers of the Red Banner nuclear-powered missile cruiser "Kirov" and they will describe the experience of organizing training and the competition as acquired by them in the last training year.

Capt 2d Rank S. Lebedev, Cruiser Commander:

At the very finish of the training year, our crew happened to participate in a crucial inspection exercise. The situation in the exercise was as close as possible to actual combat. For example, as soon as the cruiser completed combat with a multipurpose "enemy" air group, a new, equally difficult input was received of executing a full missile firing at a surface target. In order to effectively carry out all the missions, the sailors had to fight literally for each fraction of a second.

The inspectors gave the crew an excellent grade. In the analysis, the sailors were praised for the skillful employment of that colossal combat potential which has been given to our mighty cruiser by the designers and shipbuilders. Such praise, of course, is pleasant. But it is equally pleasant to recognize something else, namely that over the year the potential of the crew itself rose, and this means professional, creative and spiritual potential. How has this been expressed? First of all in the fact that at present on our ship there are more men involved in creative searches and those who show a researcher, innovative approach to the job.

I recall the long cruise made at the beginning of the current training year. It was not easy. It was not easy not only because of the virtually constant storms and the very taut plans for working out problems but also because much on this cruise began for us with the words "for the first time." We carried out missions which no one prior to us had to carry out and we worked out tactical procedures which no one had worked out prior to us.... And so we were particularly aware how important it is for the search to be conducted on a broad front and the largest possible number of specialists be involved in this.

Take the following example. In the crews we were to work out one of the important elements in the antisubmarine defense of the cruiser. Initially the range of persons involved in this work was limited to the sonar operators headed by Capt Lt A. Obrezkov and specialists from the underwater ordnance department headed by Capt-Lt V. Zhukov. In the course of joint drills, they developed a clearer transmitting of the target designations and sought out an opportunity to shorten certain operations on the equipment. But still they were not completely satisfied. We realized that more must be done. But how? The ship aviators were involved in the search. Many of the tactical problems were seen in a completely different light and new ideas appeared. And then it was suddenly clear that those who seemingly were at first far removed from the improving of the antisubmarine defense of the cruiser could make a contribution, including sailors from the engineering subunit. A new tactical procedure arose as a result of the collective search.

It is said that scientists have the term "brainstorm." When a particularly complex problem is encountered in research, they endeavor to bring together and focus their knowledge and intellects. The "Kirov" with its very complex electronic installations and nuclear equipment can rightly be compared with a scientific laboratory. For this reason, last year we repeatedly had need of some "brainstorming" in order to travel down untrod paths in tactics and methods.

Scores of all sorts of innovations appeared last year on the cruiser. For instance, Capt-Lt I. Fedorov worked out and introduced an innovation proposal making it possible to increase the accuracy of target designations in radio electronic range-finding. Capt 3d Rank V. Kozlovskiy and Capt-Lt M. Gamydov introduced an attachment making it possible to significantly accelerate calculations in selecting the combat position.

I have mentioned specific names. But among the authors of these and many other innovations were scores of co-authors. Virtually all the innovations arose as a result of lively, creative discussions in the collective. It is also valuable that a majority of the innovations were somewhat "programmed" by the plans for commander training and special training. For example, Capt 3d Rank S. Sobolev, according to his plan for independent study, was given an assignment to prepare an abstract on certain questions of operating and maintaining the nuclear propulsion unit. As a result, an entire procedural aid was obtained which now is doing good service among a broad range of specialists.

Over the year a good deal was done. But now, in assessing our deeds from the position of the present-day demands on fleet combat readiness, we see new horizons in our military service and unutilized reserves. We have every opportunity to work on mastering the weapons and equipment even better and more effectively. We are endeavoring to maximally realize these possibilities in the new training year.

Capt-Lt A. Vitsko, Party Committee Secretary of the Cruiser:

At the very first session of the party committee after the accepting of the high obligations, its members and I agreed that we would respond most decisively to the slightest divergence of word and deed among the communists. Unfortunately, this had to be done very soon. Literally in the very first weeks it was discovered that some of the sailors, in particular in the chemical warfare service, had allowed themselves unjustified easy terms. The commander of the group, Capt-Lt I. Kuchmistyy, had to be invited to a party committee session. The sharp and principled discussion conducted here not only for Kuchmistyy but also for many others let it be clearly understood that the initiative of the "Kirov" is not some ordinary campaign but is a concern of our honor and a vital matter for each.

In dealing strictly with the communists and the other sailors, the party committee pointed out to them the ways for eliminating various shortcomings and at the same time endeavored to ascertain what was behind them, what were the phenomena, what problems? For instance, at one time inspectors detected a number of shortcomings on the cruiser in organizing the duty and watch service. There was a desire immediately, hot on the trail, to resort to party measures. But the party committee members decided to analyze the question more thoroughly. The communists I. Fedorov and I. Prilutskiy were assigned to analyze the work of the men on watch. And then it was discovered that certain young specialists, under the impression of improving the equipment assigned to them, had involuntarily begun to play down their own role in maintaining this.

Such a problem, understandably, cannot be solved by abrupt measures. The communists and the best specialists on the ship had to be mobilized for explanatory

work. We intensified the military-technical propaganda, emphasizing in it the demonstration of the leading role of man in the "man-equipment" system. The contest for the title of best specialist and best watch shift also played a major role in the successful development of the young specialists.

Incidentally, last year the communists of the "Kirov" paid particular attention to the questions of the competition. The commander above mentioned the search in tactics and methods which was conducted on the ship. This search had to be reinforced also by a search for new forms of competition and ways to increase its effectiveness.

Many ships have encountered the problem of how to compare the accomplishments of sailors from different specialties and who are in the same teams or shifts but perform completely dissimilar functions. For us this problem is even more acute. Certainly on the "Kirov" the diversity of specialties is even greater. Someone voiced the idea of calculating and mathematically establishing sorts of coefficients for the labor participation of each specialty of sailors in carrying out one or another task. This was tried out. Initially, a rather cumbersome table was obtained which simply could not be employed in practice. But gradually, by making corrections and simplifying it, we, in our view, have reached an optimum variation. Now each man receives a tested, objective assessment of his work at sea and no one has the opportunity to "sit idly" behind others and still receive a high grade.

Capt 3d Rank S. Sobolev, Division Commander of the Engineering Department:

In serving on the "Kirov," one is convinced that the more complex the ship is the more acute are the problems of saving training time. For example, the sailors from the division which I command have been entrusted with serving the heart of the ship, its nuclear propulsion unit. Many officers from the division arrived on the "Kirov" from ships equipped with steam or gas turbine units. And hence they had to literally bone up and re-learn everything. Where could the time for this be found? Under such conditions it was very important not to submit to routine, in spite of all the objective difficulties, and to constantly seek out reserves of time for the independent study of the sailors. The ship's commander, the executive officer and the commanders of the subunits did a good deal of work on systematizing the work day of the officers and warrant officers: they revised certain schedules and charts, and they sought out the possibility of condensing and combining a number of service measures without harming the work.

The problem of saving time is inseparably tied to the problem of increasing the effectiveness of the exercises and drills. The following characteristic example comes to mind. At one time Capt-Lt S. Mikhalev, a chemist by specialty, was confronted with the task of rapidly training the new recruits who came onboard the cruiser literally on the eve of setting to sea for utilizing the individual protective gear. What should be done? Mikhalev decided to use the ship television facilities for training the new men. He organized the demonstration exercises and drills directly at the TV studio from here they were transmitted

throughout the entire video system. The sailors in front of the TV screens mastered the material fully.

Many other officers have utilized the modern training facilities just as skillfully, achieving rapid training of subordinates. At the same time, it must be recognized that last year we at times had certain failings in the struggle for efficient training of the sailors. We were not able to fully overcome routine and an excessively schematic approach or eliminate miscalculations in planning. At times, there were instances when the ship would leave for gunnery practice, the specialists directly engaged in it would have more than enough to do while certain others would sit idle.

We feel that specific lessons must be drawn by the unit's staff from last year's experience. The planning of the involvement of such a ship as the "Kirov" in various exercises must be approached with particular care in order to exclude the idling of the atomic reactor. This can be achieved if in planning one properly considers not only the tactical but also the technical characteristics of the cruiser.

During the new training year, we are confronted by even more complex and responsible tasks. Hence, the crew must more fully disclose its potential and an even greater return is required from each sailor. We clearly recognize this and view what has been achieved today as a basis for further progress to new heights of combat readiness.

10272

CSO: 1801/54

NAVAL FORCES

DEVELOPMENT OF WARRANT OFFICERS' CAREERS URGED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Nov 84 p 2

[Article by Capt 2d Rank A. Kolesnikov, unit staff officer: "Warrant Officer Horizons"]

[Text] On a submarine which was carrying out a long-range tour, a malfunction in one of the working units suddenly occurred because a young sailor had made a mistake. The commander made no attempt to cover his distress: the malfunction turned out to be serious. Regardless of how the radio operators, under whose management it had taken place, tried to correct the malfunction, they were unable to do so on their own. It seemed that they could not manage without the assistance of repair specialists and the submarine would have to return to base ahead of time. Nevertheless, a solution was found, and found by one who hardly had any direct involvement in the servicing of the given unit. At the moment when the commander was getting ready to turn his ship about, the petty officer of the deck machinist team P. Yurov turned to him and said:

"Comrade commander, I have an idea how we might correct the malfunction."

His idea was successfully implemented. The submarine continued on its course.

This example is not unique in the large practical work of ship service which Warrant Officer Yurov has as an experienced military expert. In his years of submarine service, he has accumulated enormous experience, and not only in his own specialty. He also knows extremely well the fine points in the work of specialists of various skills. However, we are not talking only about the very comprehensive training of an experienced warrant officer. We are talking especially about his attitude towards his service and the activist approach he takes to it. Whatever happens on the ship bothers and concerns Yurov; he worries greatly about everything. It is no wonder that he enjoys a great deal of respect from the crew. Often, sailors from other subunits and even other ships come to him for advice. The submarine commander explained how he himself sometimes considers it necessary to consult with Yurov even on problems associated with the accomplishment of this or that mission and the training of subordinates.

Perhaps someone reading these lines will say: "Well, so what? Yurov is not the only one of his kind in the navy, is he? There are such experienced and authoritative warrant officers on other ships as well." One thing, however, is true: Yurov is by no means an exception. And this is a good thing. It is a good thing because warrant officers, who have grown wise in their professions and lives and are dedicated to the service of their ships, serve in many crews. They are rightfully called the closest assistants of their officers. We cannot speak of these skillful teachers and genuine experts in their fields without respect. They may not occupy very high positions, but how important is the role they play in the life of their ships, units and forces, as the scope of their activity for the benefit of the navy is frequently extensive. Every such warrant officer is, as a rule, an outstanding individual; in associating with him, you sense both his inner strength, his dignity and his deep understanding of the importance of what it means to be a warrant officer.

Unfortunately however, you sometimes run into totally different warrant officers with totally different views on their service. I once had the chance to be a part of the following situation. A ship's commander once reproved a warrant officer for his poor work with subordinates and weak assistance to his immediate commander in establishing order, a newly assigned young lieutenant who had just completed schooling. Although he was considered to be a good specialist, this warrant officer was not too concerned about his authority. Moreover, he violated disciplinary rules and drank. In response, the warrant officer let loose a lot of big talk: "The lieutenant is today just a lieutenant; tomorrow he will command a ship. Today I am a warrant officer, and tomorrow and the day after tomorrow I will still be just a warrant officer. Generally speaking, I am just small fry. What do you want from me?"

As the warrant officer spoke, one felt that he did not understand very much about the essence of his service, that he was unable to unwilling to see its prospects. Hence, this strange psychology of the "small fry" which evidently isolates him from many concerns. The service itself, however, refutes this psychology by showing a host of examples which testify to the prestige of warrant officer rank and the public recognition which people who have this rank are deservedly accorded.

At our Red Banner Leningrad naval base, we all know the name of the mine specialist and demolition sapper, military expert and holder of the order of the Red Star and the "For Military Merit" medal, Sr Lt V. Aleksandrov. I remember him very well when he was a warrant officer. Then, as now, he dedicated himself to his difficult, but noble work; his job was to clear mines. Here he demonstrated the highest sense of responsibility, self-sacrifice and professionalism. It is quite natural that this most experienced mine specialist, Warrant Officer Aleksandrov, was nominated to be an officer. He then took all the required examinations and now he is a promising officer.

And how many of Aleksandrov's warrant officer colleagues enhanced during this time their future possibilities by having demonstrated in practice the high work qualities very necessary to the navy. Take warrant officers G. Dorofeyev, D. Konovalov, E. Dvoynov and many others. They are respected people who serve with gladness and inspiration and are genuinely satisfied by their military work.

Let us have a look at only one side of warrant officer activity: their professional growth. In my opinion, the commanders of units and ships ideally should strive to have literally every warrant officer become a specialist of the highest calibre and to have the concepts of "warrant officer" and "expert" themselves become synonymous. But alas, in some crews, it is still a long way to such an ideal.

This is the way it happens: initially, the warrant officer serves conscientiously, assiduously mastering his speciality. But then a certain level is reached and he begins to "mark time". This "marking time" sometimes turns into professional disqualification and inevitable failures in his work with equipment. Such rebuke can be directed particularly against warrant officers N. Tatarchuk, A. Barkovskiy and Y. Knassov. Not one of them has used his ability to learn the equipment, although they have been serving on ships for many years and could have been experts long ago. The problem here is that they have grown accustomed to regarding their service as a kind of "trade". As a result, they go from year to year hidden away among the "average performers."

I once asked Warrant Officer Kvassov about this.

"Why do you always write 'confirm first class' in your obligations? Why not try for expert?"

"I am not ready for it."

"I can understand why you are not ready. You never really prepare for it."

"And what is wrong with me being first class. It is enough for me."

Yes, goals which are easily attainable are more comfortable and less troublesome. It never occurs to people, however, that they limit themselves with such a sluggish attitude and passiveness and doom themselves to a joyless tour of service, something which brings them no satisfaction and hardly gives the navy its due.

How warrant officers serve and what kind of goals they set for themselves largely depends on the moods prevalent among the warrant officers themselves. One can hear from some ship commander: "I have no luck with warrant officers. They send me warrant officers who try to get as much as they can from the service, without giving anything back..." What can the response to something like this be? Mistakes are certainly

made in selecting candidates to fill warrant officer vacancies when people who are not inwardly prepared for naval service come on board ship or into the unit. This, however, happens rarely. The root of the shortcomings more often than not lies elsewhere: in the mistakes committed while working with warrant officers and in their training. It is not wrong to admit that we do not always consider the special features of this category of navyman, their requirements and needs too skillfully and that we do not always select the most effective forms and methods of working with them.

The USSR Naval Ship Manual specifies that warrant officer wardrooms are to be regarded in the same manner as officers' wardrooms. That is to say, the warrant officer wardroom, like the officers' wardroom, should serve as an area of close association for people and a cultural center facilitating their indoctrination in a spirit of high political and moral maturity. Of course, the warrant officer wardroom can fulfill this function only if the ship's commander, political officer and communists focus their constant attention on this. In practice, however, such attention is often lacking; the commander and the political officer fail to appear in the warrant officer wardroom for weeks at a time.

Competition among warrant officers deserves particular attention. It permits the warrant officers to appreciably extend their warrant officer horizons and point these sailors at higher levels in their military efforts. If you take a look at the obligations of some warrant officers, however, you see that they are no different from those of any young sailor or petty officer, even though the aspirations and interests of a warrant officer are of a higher order.

I remember this curious example. One warrant officer somehow wrote in his obligations: "Take and pass the tests for admittance to perform watch duty as a watch officer." He puzzled the organizers of the competition a great deal. There was no precedent for this on the ships of this given class; gossip abounded: Isn't this excessive? Does a warrant officer have to undertake something like this? They finally succeeded in dissuading the warrant officer from his unusual obligation. I think that it is too bad that they succeeded.

In many advanced crews, for example, the warrant officers are actively targeted for competing in mastering the duties of the next-higher position. The advantages are twofold. On one hand, reliable combat replacements for the officers are trained from among the warrant officers. On the other hand, additional prospects are opened before these warrant officers.

Prospects: the word itself contains the idea of striving forward, the energy of movement and of growth. When an individual has a broad horizon in his service, it encourages him, makes him stronger and more confident, and gives him inspiration. For people wearing warrant officer tabs, the horizons are alluring. It is important only to learn how to see them in one's everyday efforts and concerns, to become fired up with pride for the rank of warrant officer, and aim one's sights on great and glorious accomplishments in the name of naval combat readiness.

DOSAAF

NUMBER OF TRAINING FACILITIES IN MINSK OBLAST NOTED

Minsk SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 84 p 3

[Interview with Col G. N. Chebotarev, Belorussian Deputy Military Commissar, by Lt Col (Res) Ya. Malyy: "To Serve in the Home Army"; date and place of interview not given]

[Excerpts] In accord with the Law on Universal Military Service, the regular induction of youth for active military service is underway in our nation. On this occasion our stringer, Lt Col (Res) Ya. Malyy asked the Belorussian Deputy Military Commissar, Col G. N. Chebotarev, to answer certain questions.

[Question] In Minsk and in the rayons of the capital oblast there are scores of people's universities for military-patriotic indoctrination, for military and military-technical knowledge, future soldier clubs and military-patriotic lecture series. Please tell us about their work.

[Answer] The independent universities and clubs for the future soldier, undoubtedly, play a major role in indoctrinating worthy recruits for the Army and Navy. Exercises have been organized in an interesting manner in two people's universities in Slutsk, for example. Here exercises for the inductees are conducted by party and war veterans, veterans of the Soviet Armed Forces, party and soviet workers, Komsomol and DOSAAF activists and officers from the military commissariat. Virtually all the young men leaving from here for military service have mastered one or two general military specialties. As a total on the territory of the oblast there are at work 40 universities and 29 clubs, 118 school museums and around 600 rooms and corners of revolutionary, military and labor glory....

Many preinductees master military knowledge at training facilities which are established at the enterprises, institutions and sovkhozes. This work has been precisely organized at the training facilities of the Minsk Automotive Plant. The youth are being trained well at the people's universities for military-patriotic indoctrination at the Minsk Officer Club and the Republic Defense Club.

Great attention is paid to the physical conditioning of the inductees in Minsk, Molodechno, Slutsk, Stolbtsovskiy and Chervenskiy Rayons. For example, in Minsk serving the youth are 20 stadiums, 338 sports gymnasiums, 23 swimming pools and 1,617 sports grounds. Attention should also be given to the practice

of holding monthly sports contests for the induction youth and organized by some of the rayon military commissariats. Let me emphasize that these are monthly and not only summer and winter spartaciads, as was the case previously.

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CSO: 1801/54

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET SAPPERS' WORK IN DRA DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Nov 84 pp 3-4

[Article by Special KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Vladimir Vozovikov: "Mines and Grapes"]

[Text] In entering Afghanistan upon the request of the republic's revolutionary government, the units of the limited Soviet troop contingent were deployed in lands which had never been tilled, on which nothing grew with the exception, perhaps, of sparse bushes of camel thorn and saltwort. It was all rock, sand and gray loam. Under the hooves of livestock and under the wheels and tracks of vehicles this loam was turned into a volatile dust which the "Afghan" [a wind] raised as white clouds above the mountains and the winter rains turned into bogs. It requires courage merely to live in such a land.

No exception to this was the position of the combat engineer subunit under the command of Officer Valentin Georgiyevich Dyatlov. Tents stood on a dusty field with nowhere for a soldier to wash, nowhere to take shelter from the scorching rays and a rare hour of rest had to be whiled away in the same tent. Drinking water was strictly rationed but man remained man. A heat-exhausted person could forget about the warnings and drink from a nearby irrigation ditch. But Afghanistan has always been considered an area of mass epidemics and this is understandable. Prior to the revolution here there was one hospital bed for every 5,000 persons. With the most heroic efforts of communist power, with the most unstinting and unselfish aid by our medical workers, it has been very difficult to change the situation in a short period of time as the reaction has fiercely resisted any improvements in the life of the people. For the leaders of the counterrevolution, mass illnesses in people are a means for combating communist power, like the foul shots from behind the corner and mines on the roads. The "dushmans" [rebels] at present also fire on the red crosses and white tents....

Having assumed command of the subunit, Dyatlov quickly assembled the officers and aktiv.

"Here is the situation, comrades. It is possible for some to live under field conditions for a few days. But to live constantly this way is impossible. The situation requires that our people work at full strength and strength comes from normal rest and a normal way of life. In the tents, on this field, we

must establish normal living conditions. Think, invent, and involve all the soldiers and sergeants in this matter. I am confident that any good initiative for improving the soldier's home will inspire the men and will contribute to our main job."

The combat engineers have more than enough to do. The counterrevolution, without possessing sufficient strength to combat communist power openly, has made its major wager on subversion and terror directly against the peaceful population. In this undeclared war, mine warfare has almost become predominant. For this reason our combat engineers are usually dealing not with training mines but live mines of all systems and designs. And with the entire arsenal of perfidy with which instructors from the camp of the enemies of the Afghan people arm the bandits.

On the day of my arrival among the combat engineers, Sr Lt Sergey Polatayko was saying farewell to his comrades. He had been in command of the platoon, and his subordinates had deactivated more than a score of the mines. There were instants in his life when only enormous personal courage and self-possession, skill and quick responses saved him from inevitable calamity. Once the young combat engineer, in removing an American mine in a settlement, accidentally activated the fuze. No one could say when the explosion would occur, in a minute, two or in five seconds? But there were people and equipment nearby. Having heard the evil click, Polatayko commanded: "Hit the dirt! Crawl away!" and dashed to the ribbed monster. It took him seconds to remove and throw away the ticking fuze but even young persons turn gray-haired in such moments....

Recently the combat engineers were asked to check a road leading into a village where people were returning who previously had been driven out from their houses by the dushmans. When they arrived at the work area, it seemed that nothing harmful to man could be hidden in the hard-baked loam over which the most experienced eye could not make out any traces of sabotage. But a combat engineer does not believe his eyes. After an hour of difficult searching, Pvt Vladimir Orlov detected an Italian-made antitransport mine. Soon thereafter pvt Aleksandr Ignat'yev found a cleverly arranged "booby trap." This time the mine was Israeli. After another 30 minutes of hard work, again another Italian-made lethal monster was removed. Here Sgt Viktor Khanin distinguished himself.

Later on a steel machine with a minesweeping attachment passed over the road one, twice and then a third time.... An Afghan driver who drove up, smiling, by gesture asked to pass and was surprised by the negative gesture of the traffic controller. Experience in mine warfare has taught caution to our combat engineers. They decided to make another several sweeps. Who could know that the fuze of a deeply buried powerful land mine designed for the repeated passage of the vehicles might not be activated under the weight of the sweep in the very first monitoring pass? Polatayko kept far from the sweep but could not anticipate the strength of the land mine's charge. The vehicle was shaken by the explosion but its armor protected the crew. A directed hail of earth and crushed rock caught the platoon commander....

Our military medics did their best, saving the eyesight of Sergey Polatayko. And when he, leaving to go home, bid farewell to his friends, on his young face covered by scars one could see unfeigned sadness. Hence in this life full of

danger there is also a special attraction. This lies in an awareness of the sacred duty which one defends on the land of a friendly country. This lies in a feeling of satisfaction from dangerous jobs for which the Afghans themselves tell you words of gratitude. This lies in the strength of male friendship which here in the war-torn area gives better help than armor. The hands of friends carefully picked up the fallen Sergey Polatayko, they applied the first bandages and delivered him to the hospital without wasting any time. And even before recuperation, he felt the signs of attention and concern from comrades.

Now the young officer literally with envy was listening to the talk of the combat engineers who had just returned from a regular mission. During that day Sgt Andrey Trofimovich and Pvt Oleg Survilo had distinguished themselves as they had cleared the mines from a rebel weapons and ammunition dump discovered in an underground water-collecting well, a "karez." We later saw the mortars, hundreds of mines, boxes of grenades and a whole pile of full ammunition pouches which were brought up to the surface. These "presents" to the Afghan peasants from the American president, from Islamabad and Beijing had been carried over bandit trails in order to kill the very peasants and their children, to destroy schools and bridges....

"Those bastards make storage dumps in the wells and mine them!" said a young combat engineer indignantly. "They don't give a damn for anyone!"

The soldier's anger was understandable. The wells are the life-giving arteries of this mountain valley. Created by the skillful work of many generations of peasants over the centuries, these provide the villages with spring water and slake the thirst of the grain fields and vineyards. Without them the sunny bowl of the valley which abounds in grapes would be turned into a dust bowl. But why should the rebels be worried by the farmer's concerns. They receive their money for murder and destruction. For this reason if the vineyard grows it is for them merely a convenient place for ambushing, while the underground galleries of the karezes are a place for secret weapons dumps. They mine the outlets of the wells and in their galleries hide from retaliation, and in the event of pursuit blow up the water lines. The combat engineers have repeatedly had to help the peasants clear out and rebuild the destroyed wells so that life in the villages did not die. This work is just as dangerous as the mine sweeping of the roads.

"When our combat engineers go out on assignments," said Dyatlov, "I only have one desire and that is to split myself into parts and be with each of them."

But without being able to split into parts, the commander is able to interject himself in his subordinates. His ability lies in strictest exactingness when he checks the preparation of the men prior to going out on a mission. And also in strong concern for the everyday routine of the men and their needs. It is said that good fathers turn gray at the temples early. Dyatlov has a young face but completely gray temples. He has even been accused of "household patriotism," particularly what concerns the organizing of the life of his men. To this Dyatlov replies:

"A pilot, even if he has slept poorly, is not allowed to fly. Why should I do differently in sending officers and soldiers out to remove rebel mines?"

That old conversation of Dyatlov's with the officers and aktiv was not in vain as the life of the combat engineers was transformed. Cleanliness and comfort are striking even in the tents. It is no longer necessary to save water as an abundant supply is delivered to all the subunits from a well through pipes. Skillful cooks are at work in the spacious mess for the soldiers and officers and this was attractively built by their own hands. Competitions develop at the sports grounds during leisure time. And returning from a dangerous job, the combat engineers rush to the Russian bathhouse shrouded in pungent juniper steam.

If Dyatlov is praised for his ability to live in the field as well as in any standard camp, he smiles: "A commander is strong in his subordinates," and he names off his assistants including the officers, sergeants and privates. Among them are Anatoliy Korzh, Stepan Moroz, Dmitriy Kozel, Aleksandr Korkouola, Viktor Gladush and Sergey Vakalyuk. And there are many others who believed the commander that it is possible to live in the field as well as in winter quarters. And in believing, they spared no energy and daring, helping to create this life.

"When in the morning forming-up I see the men fresh, strong, cleanly and neatly clothed," says Dyatlov, "I feel an influx of strength as if we could move mountains."

Dyatlov is not far from the truth as the combat engineers must also move mountains. Once an avalanche blocked a section of a road over which a column was to pass. A plug had formed almost 4 m tall and on top of it fell a "pebble" weighing up to 10 tons. The column could not turn back as behind there had been an even larger avalanche. The combat engineers fought the disaster for 14 hours in order to blast their comrades out of the rocky clutches. Tanks with mounted engineer equipment under the command of Lt Sergey Khrionovskiy performed seemingly the impossible, but they also were powerless. Then the demolition workers headed by Sergey Turkukalo set to work and during all the 14 hours he never sat down to rest. And when after the dramatic struggle against the landslide the combat engineers were thanked for their help, they joked back: "We prefer to fight rocks than mines. Rocks do not explode."

"Here many 'old truths' resurface for one," said Dyatlov. "The same concern for the routine of the men and their careful preparation for going out on every mission. Immediately you see that this is one of the most important problems in combat training. I would particularly mention the strength of the personal example of the commander and political worker. Here, in Afghanistan, we should pay homage to our 'commissars.' They are always the first where it is difficult and dangerous. And you always feel safer for the men and the job. Just take my deputy for political affairs, Igor' Mikhaylovich Nabokov...."

Dyatlov and Nabokov have much in common in their fates. Dyatlov's father was killed at the start of the war at Smolensk, before his son was born. Nabokov's father was killed at the end of the war, at Berlin. Both lived through a difficult childhood and served their time in the army. Only Dyatlov moved from a soldier's life to the position of an officer candidate at the Tyumen Higher Military Engineer Command School while Nabokov after being discharged into the reserves felt an insurmountable pull toward army life and decided to continue

the path of his fallen father. He took the examinations for a tank school course as an external student [without taking courses]....

Both have wives and daughters waiting at home. Only Dyatlov's senior-grade daughter Ella has long been writing her own letters while the mother is still writing to far-off Afghanistan for Nabokov's 2-year-old daughter, Yelena.

Nabokov arrived in the combat engineer subunit with the Order of the Red Star. This combat decoration on the chest of the man of no-way Herculean appearance even surprised some. But only until the first difficult moment. The combat engineers were supporting the movement of transport and suddenly came on a minefield and immediately rebel fire broke out from the surrounding hills. The young officer was not lost for an instant and one lost instant in such a situation can cost a great deal. Nabokov immediately assumed command. The vehicle commanders over the airwaves heard the firm voice of the political worker who gave combat instructions. The weapons and machine guns of the infantry combat vehicles and armored personnel carriers struck hard at the rebels. The commander of the cover group, recovering from his excitement, began to confidently control the firing. Behind a secure wall of fire, the combat engineers began clearing and had completed it by the arrival of the column.

"As the deputy commander of the subunit, I was obliged to assume command in the difficult moment," Nabokov explained calmly and then smiled: "Certainly political work means by personal example to show to the young commanders what firm and continuous command in a difficult situation means."

The commander nodded in agreement. He himself will remember all his life that memorable night when for the first time he had to lead a large column through a dangerous area. The mined area of the route was then more than a kilometer long. It also had to be crossed under fire. It took more than an hour and the mines removed were not even counted. But they did not lose a single man or a single vehicle. At that time it seemed to him that he had been carrying an iron mountain on his shoulders all night long. He even felt this physically with his shoulders aching in the morning. On the other hand, he gained confidence and strength immediately in a new situation. Hence, Dyatlov looks with respect at the shoulders of his deputy for political affairs as they are not wide but certainly more dependable ones cannot be found. And how many of them, these reliable shoulders, are nearby in the subunit!....

The secretary of the subunit's party organization Sr Lt Viktor Gladush assembled the bureau members. There was a special reason: Pvt Nikolay Yuresku had requested to join the party.

"A dependable guy," commented one of the communists.

"Yes," nodded Nabokov. "Reliable. Under our conditions life clearly discloses a person's essence. Yuresku was serving in a safe position but this position seemed wrong for him when his comrades were carrying out a difficult and dangerous job. He began to request to go out on missions with the combat engineers and soon showed that he could work in the field just as well as the others and better than many. Next to such soldiers, our new recruits mature before your very eyes...."

I left the combat engineers in the evening. In the quickly darkening sky, one could see the lights of two helicopters flying with a load to the distant heights along the valley's edge. As if born by the dusk, gray shaggy dust storms twisted across the field. And in my ears rang the last words of Dyatlov: "We are thinking about growing an entire garden at our camp. The first trees are already growing. The Afghans have given our neighbors some grapevines and they also have taken to this meager land and produced grapes on the first year. Our apple sapplings and grapevines are also growing. I can already see this garden."

I also could see the shadowy, dark-green garden being grown by soldier hands on the dead land where nothing has ever grown except camel thorn.

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CSO: 1801/48

AFGHANISTAN

PAPER RECOUNTS UNIT'S ESCAPE FROM DRA AMBUSH

PM231703 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 85 Second Edition p 3

[Report by own correspondent Major A. Oliynik under the rubric "Military Character": "In a Hail of Bullets"]

[Text] The sudden explosion split the sheer rock face. Disintegrating in the air, lumps of rock rained down on the path. The loud chatter of large--aliber machineguns mingled with the booming echo of the explosion. The slanting lines of fire cut across the canyon and pinned the paratroopers to the rocks.

Stunned by the explosion, Guards Captain Nikolay Kravchenko collapsed a hundred paces from where the path had once been. His head was aching and reeling and his helmet, which had been blown to the back of his head by the blast, seemed to weigh a ton. He loosened the strap and raised himself a little, trying to see what was happening. Fragments of rock immediately rained on his face and with a whistle a bullet ricocheted past. "The dishmans have laid a trap," the officer thought, glancing with alarm at the sheer walls of the canyon. "It won't be easy to get out of this rock prison."

Kravchenko looked back worriedly. Fanned out across the canyon hiding behind rocks and in crevices, the paratroopers were returning the fire. "There are no losses," the officer noted with relief. Groping for his throat microphone, which had been knocked out of position, he switched on the shortwave radio and pronounced the group commander's call sign. The airwaves responded with a dry crackling that was scarcely audible in the crossfire. Guards Captain Vladimir Fedorov, replied, breathing heavily:

"Take command, Krav..."

After a pause the radio operator's agitated voice could be heard. The commander is wounded, he reported: he has lost consciousness. The doctor is helping him under fire. We are trying to summon some helicopters.

"The helicopters will not get through to us," Kravchenko noted with concern, glancing at the heavy broken clouds, which had towered over the

mountains for several days now. That meant that there would be no help in the immediate future: they were too far inside the realm of rocks...

The region where the paratroopers were was one of the most remote in the notorious valley of the Five Lions. On the map the valley, which stretches in an arc, is like the trace of a saber thrust cutting through the country's main highway, which joins Kabul to the northern provinces. The "general" of the counterrevolution--Ahmad Shah Masud--at one time turned these regions into a bandit lair, terrorized the population, and mercilessly pillaged on the only mountain road. In summer last year during the Panjsher operation Afghan military units routed his bandit formations. When they had forced the dushmans out of the valley, they began to clear the soil of Panjsher of its lethal filling--the latest types of foreign-made mines. As they retreated the dushmans left them everywhere: on mule tracks in deserted villages, next to wells--the guiding hand of the professional foreign instructors could be felt. There were various types of explosive devices--trip-operated devices, bounding mines, mines with pneumatic trip fuzes, and remote control devices. How many calamities and deaths they might have caused!

The Afghan authorities turned to Soviet servicemen for aid. One group, reinforced with sappers and led by Guards Captain Fedorov, inspected the high mountain gorge day after day. Combat vehicles and other equipment had to be left at the bottom. For several days now the paratroopers had been pushing deeper and deeper into the labyrinth of the gorge. And increasingly often there were reminders of the undeclared war--deserted villages, mangled vehicles, scorched rocks at the sites of fierce engagements.

Sappers with sniffer dogs and the combat guard marched at the head of the group. On the way they encountered barriers, rockfalls, and mine "traps"--the work of gangs that were still holding out. And then came the ambush. When they blew up the rock face, the dushmans thought that the paratroopers were blocked in. The bandits had taken everything into consideration: the small size of the group, the poor weather, the remoteness of the region. But they had not considered the most important thing--the courage and combat skill of the Soviet internationalist servicemen.

In difficult conditions a military man does not have the right to give way to emotions. He may have just experienced a terrible moment but once it is past all his thoughts are turned to the future: How should he act now? At such dangerous moments Kravchenko always acted with composure and care. Now, having assessed the situation, the officer ordered over the radio: Light the smoke pots; we must hold ours until dark. Soon the swirling black clouds filled the corners of the canyon or, of reach of the wind, reliably concealing the paratroopers. The gunfire slackened.

From his hiding place Kravchenko examined the slopes opposite through his binoculars. As he watched, the silhouettes of the icy peaks became dimmer and less distinct. A starless night covered the earth like a yashmak.

The paratroopers had won the first round of the duel. It was possible to regroup forces and to plan what to do next. They must escape from the trap under cover of darkness. Otherwise they would be greeted at dawn by a hail of bullets from the dushman machineguns: The paratroopers were well aware of the bandits' wolfish ways.

All the group's radios were set on receive only. The paratroopers waited to see what the commander would do.

"'Saturn,' come over here!" Kravchenko said over the airwaves.

"Saturn" was the call sign of his friend Aleksandr Lepeshkin. With him Kravchenko had started his service on Afghan soil and covered hundreds of kilometers along remote mountain paths. Now Kravchenko had decided to entrust him with carrying out a bold but very risky plan: taking a group of paratroopers through the dushman blocking forces and into the rear of the emplacements that had been spotted in order to mount a surprise attack at dawn.

In his heart of hearts Kravchenko wanted to lead this group himself. But experience told him: He had no right to do this, his place was not there. He recalled clearly his first assignment.

...At the time the paratroop subunit under the command of Guards Captain Kravchenko had been ensuring that a freight convoy reached a remote region. The icy road wound up into the mountains. The surrounding snowy rocks looked lifeless. And suddenly machineguns opened up from the slopes.

"They're shooting at the guards"...the commander realized. Leaving his deputy behind, he rushed to meet the hail of bullets in an armored personnel carrier. He drew the fire in order to facilitate the retreat of the guard...

The officer fulfilled this dangerous maneuver brilliantly and was pleased that he had not faltered in a difficult situation. After the march he reported this with satisfaction to the battalion commander, Guards Major V. Pimenov, later to become a Hero of the Soviet Union. Contrary to expectations, the battalion commander judged otherwise. His words were engraved for everyone in his memory: "A commander's courage is manifested primarily in his firmness in controlling a subunit..."

That had been more than a year ago, and Nikolay Kravchenko had never again had to blush in front of the battalion commander. During his service on Afghan soil there had been everything--dangerous marches in the mountains and freezing nights spent guarding installations...his subordinates never received easy assignments. And they always resolved them in exemplary fashion. Many paratroopers were awarded orders and medals. The commander himself was awarded the Order of the Red Star.

"We're preparing our positions, and there are no losses!..."--Lepeshkin reported, emerging noiselessly from the darkness.

Sheltering beneath ponchos, the commanders bent over the map. How its dark-brown coloring coincided with the color of these rock faces. But just try to determine where there might be a mine field and where the enemy is hiding. After a short consultation they chose the most complex route for the group, over a cliff. It would be hard to climb up, but on the other hand there was less chance of coming across the dushman blocking forces. Having agreed to everything, they silently embraced each other. Both understood the danger of the situation: If the group was discovered, assistance could not be expected from anywhere.

"If anything crops up, we will have a good last conversation," the barrel of a light machinegun gleamed dully in Lepeshkin's hand.

Several hours had passed since the group melted into the darkness. Time was dragging agonizingly. Exposing his sharp-featured face to the midnight wind, Kravchenko strained to hear something in the hollow silence. His temples ached, and incautious movements hurt his injured shoulder. All he could do was wait: everything had now been assigned and considered. The success of the breakthrough would now depend on the combat onslaught and courage of the paratroopers who would go up in the morning to break out of the encirclement.

Suddenly a barely distinguishable but painfully familiar clatter reached them from somewhere in the distance. Helicopters were flying. The noise of the rotors now died away, now intensified: the helicopters were following the steep turns of the ravine. Just a few minutes later Kravchenko was agreeing on recognition signals by radio with the leader of the pair of MI-8's and on the landing site--it was necessary to evacuate the injured commander and replenish ammunition. They prepared defensive machinegun fire in case there was shooting from the caves.

The caves were silent. The bandits evidently thought that a helicopter landing was inconceivable now, and, moreover, the second helicopter, which was circling over the canyon, would immediately open fire on any emplacement it detected.

Switching on its searchlight just above the ground, the helicopter abruptly came in to land. It seemed that the whirling ring of shining rotors was on the point of touching the wall.

"A masterly landing," Kravchenko thought, regretting that he could not now shake hands with the pilots who had accomplished the near-impossible. He resolved to find out the names of the helicopter pilots later without fail and to thank them personally. But for this it was necessary to return from the assignment...

Kravchenko did a lot of thinking that freezing cold night. He relived his entire brief life. He recalled Omsk, dear to his heart, his parents' home, his wife's misty eyes on parting, 7-year-old Vika's little scribblings. He never parted with his daughter's now dog-eared letter and the family photograph.

The officer knew that similar feelings were almost certainly now being experienced by everyone who was lying with him among the cold rocks in the nameless canyon. Only he did not know of whom specifically the soldiers were thinking. Perhaps they were ranking his name and the names of the other commanders with the names of their fathers, as he was doing. Together with memories of his father, a front-line soldier who aroused in his son's soul the first seeds of courage and love for the military profession, he saw in his mind's eye Captain G. Shpak, company commander at the Ryazan Lenin Komsomol Higher Airborne Command School, and recalled his friends in the Svirskoye Airborne Guards Formation, where he became a commander and a Communist. For the umpteenth time he thought with gratitude of Guards Lieutenant Colonel A. Fedotov and Guards Maj V. Pimenov, who gave him his first and sometimes tough lessons in commander's skills right here, on Afghan soil...

Scarcely was the horizon ablaze with crimson light when Lepeshkin's long-awaited words came over the headset: "I've reached the target..." And at once a scarlet aurora started dancing on the crest of a nearby height pocked by the black holes of caves--the grenade launchers had fired a volley.

"Forward!"--Kravchenko ordered briefly.

Pressing his chin to his bullet-proof vest, he dashed to the rocky slope. All the paratroopers climbed up after him. Kravchenko did not yet know that a few hours later he would emerge from this trap together with the group, barely alive, with bloodied hands, with an empty magazine in his submachinegun, and just one cartridge in his pistol...He did not know that the paratroopers would be recommended for awards for courage and heroism, while he himself would be awarded a hero's Gold Star.

Meanwhile, the paratroopers were making their way up in short bursts, toward the rock caves. They attacked in a silent frenzy, burning themselves on the barrels of submachineguns and spent cases. And the disquieting mountain echo swept in a wave around the wounded cliffs of the nameless canyon.

CSO: 1801/129

AFGHANISTAN

YOUTH PAPER SENDS TEAM TO AFGHANISTAN

PM161434 [Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA in Russian on 16 January 1985 front-pages, under the rubric "Newspaper-Reader-Newspaper," a 250-word editorial note entitled "The Agitation Team."

Referring to the newspaper's tradition of sending teams of agitation workers to contact readers in remote locations, the note says:

"Recently, for the first time in the almost 60 years of KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA's existence, one of its teams found itself in the DRA. It consisted of an olympic champion, musicians, artists, and newspaper journalists--in all, 14 people. Over a 2-week period they had 35 meetings in various parts of the DRA. It is impossible to describe all their impressions. But the main ones must be described."

The note refers readers to page 2, which is titally devoted to a 5,500-word Kabul-Moscow reportage, under the same rubric and title, attributed to special correspondents N. Bodnaruk, Yu. Geyko, and P. Mikhalev and dealing with the activities of the agitation team.

The authors begin by describing a telephone conversation with the parents of a serviceman serving in Afghanistan, to whom they played recorded greetings from their son. They then describe one meeting in Afghanistan which had to be delayed because the subunit they were scheduled to meet was late in returning from duty. After writing about the concert staged for the subunit and describing the enthusiasm with which Commander Valeriy Alekseyevich Sidorov thanked them, they go on to quote from a recording of a conversation they had with Sidorov during their visit.

Sidorov speaks of his family background and tells of his proficiency at boxing. He continues:

"I understood that I could not make my living by my fists. It is a pity that some young people don't understand this...no, I don't mean sportsmen, I mean the backstreet 'heroes.' I've seen all kinds of them. Criminals and their hangers-on--they're cowards. Yes, all of them without exception. Ten against one, that's fine. But that's not how things are in the mountains. But I'll fight for a sportsman, a former member of the volunteer people's militia or of an operational detachment [operotryadnik],

they're regular guys. Many people here also quit smoking. What are you talking about--drinking? That's right out of the question--your hands shake after drinking licquor, your eyesight and breathing are impaired--just try marching in a bulletproof vest and full combat pack in the mountains, in the heat of the day, when the temperature tops 60 degrees. No, we are not heroes, we are simply doing here what the motherland has ordered..."

The authors go on to relate how, after their return to Moscow, a telephone call to one of Sidorov's former fellow servicemen revealed that he had been killed a month earlier, when "his vehicle was blown up by a dushman mine."

The reportage then switches to the team's arrival at Kabul Airport, describing the aftermath of the explosion at the airport which occurred "48 hours before our arrival." The authors declare that, by the blast, the "murderers" tried to show "what will happen to anyone who tries to break away from the centuries-old past." They go on: "For this purpose the CIA's creatures were supplied with their own secret arsenal shipped from Pakistan and consisting of several dozen mines bearing the inscription 'made in U.S.A.' The same 'autograph' of Washington state terrorism was invisibly present in the forged documents, instructions, and money confiscated later from the conspirators."

The authors then go on to describe a flight on which they were given seating priority because, according to Officer V. Magda: "If I have to choose what to load on board this moment--provisions, equipment, or the agitation team--you will be the ones to fly. You are more needed..."

The report continues with sentimental descriptions of a concert and an appearance by olympic ice-hockey champion Aleksandr Maltsev, who "was applauded when he told why he turned down the one million dollars he was offered by the Montreal Canadians team for appearing for just one season." The authors then write of a meeting with "40,000 young Afghans" to celebrate the anniversary of the DRA youth newspaper (DARAFSHE DZHAVANAN) and their conversation with (Khadzhi Navab), commander of the self-defense detachment from (Khuseynkhel) village in Baghlan Province.

A lengthy description of the conversation with (Khadzhi Navab) includes the following portion:

"I started conducting explanatory work among the ignorant population from among whom dushmans were recruited. On one occasion I slaughtered a sheep, gathered people together, recited the koran, and said: 'The Shuravi, the Soviets, have come to us to help us build a human life. We ourselves asked them to do so, because the government in Kabul knows: If there are no Shuravi, then America will come. And we poor people will become its slaves. Is that what you want when you speak against the Shuravi? Look,' I said, 'how much land the Shuravi have, what a vast country they have--they don't need our territory at all, they'll survive

without us. But will we manage to survive without them? They want to help us out of darkness, poverty, ignorance, and disease. They give us grain and machines without asking for anything in exchange. Had it not been for the Shuravi, the revolution would have ended in a blood bath for us poor people.'"

(Khadzhi Navab) is further quoted as saying:

"The people know that misfortune comes from Pakistan and America--can people over there want the good of my people when they allocate millions for killing ordinary poor peasants?"

A lyrical description of another concert is followed by a statement made by Political Officer D. Lisovskiy, who describes as "artists" "our lads who perform their service by servicing the gas pipeline which delivers fuel for Afghan and Soviet vehicles, tractors, and aircraft." Lisovskiy speaks of the "dushman ambushes, land mine explosions, and raging fires" faced by these servicemen and declares: "They strive to perform their patriotic, military, and international duty in such a way that no one can say anything bad about them later."

The reportage ends with lengthy descriptions of the agitation team's last concert in Afghanistan, their departure from Kabul, and their flight home.

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